

Washington, DC – In commemoration of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voted for, and the House passed, a resolution (H. Res. 1420) expressing the sense of the House of Representative regarding the terrorist attacks. Congress held a bicameral Congressional Remembrance Ceremony, allowing members of both chambers to pay their respects to the Americans who lost their lives in the attacks and the men and women who risked and, in many cases, sacrificed their own lives trying to save others. The Congressman, who was assigned to the Pentagon at the time of the attacks, supported the legislation, which recognized September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration; expressed condolences to friends, families and loved ones of innocent victims; honored the service of first responders, law enforcement and others who bravely acted to help the victims of the terrorist attacks; praised the service of Americans in the military, intelligence agencies and diplomatic positions who have sacrificed to defend their nation; and vowed to defeat terrorism, never forgetting the sacrifices made on and since September 11, 2001. —

“September 11 is an important date not only to honor the victims and heroes of that terrible day seven years ago, but also to remember the values for which this nation stands and the courage and moral character Americans have shown by defending our great ideals in the wake of those horrific attacks,” said Congressman Sestak. “In addition, this yearly occasion reminds us to demonstrate our gratitude to the members of our armed forces and our first responders for their selfless service on our behalf.”

The Congressman said he was proud that the first piece of legislation he voted on as a representative implemented the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations. The bill included provisions making major improvements in aviation security, border security, and infrastructure security; providing first responders the equipment and training they need; beefing up efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction; and significantly expanding diplomatic, economic, educational, and other strategies designed to counter Islamic terrorism.

“We must never diminish our focus on allocating all resources necessary to the organizations that protect our homeland, or lose our resolve to fight the Al-Qaeda members and supporters – as well as other terrorists– that plot against us until they are defeated,” said Congressman Sestak.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group*

*of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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